Chauntel Baudu, 2010-2011

Smart Reflection

This year I really want to focus on who I truly am and live out what I truly believe. I find that sometimes I do not prioritize the most important things to me, as we get too bombarded with, sometimes less important, obligations. As I was reflecting on the year I really have, personally, made huge and significant steps with technology. Unfortunately, media and our society often encourage an individualized and narcissistic approach to ethical decision making that only concerns itself with the present issue affecting the individual. People are going through their lives making quick decisions that will serve them. They are making decisions that are not complementing their spirit or the needs of the community. I believe we need to shift how we make decisions beyond how it directly affects the individual, to one that considers how it will affect others as well. It is difficult, at times, to be a Catholic educator in a modern world. Yet, our Church and our contemporary and modern lives and families can exist harmoniously within the Church and its tradition and history.

Therefore, I must stress again as I have all year, that technology can no longer be deemed a separate entity. Technology must be integrated into everything we do as educators – just as media is not separate from our lives. If we do not prepare students how to incorporate technology effectively, we are not preparing them to be able to cope with a world and a life that is inundated with media. This is a new form of literacy – one that is not going away. I believe, we are already somewhat behind and are not effectively preparing students how to cope with all of the technological outlets they will encounter within their near futures. Equally important to teachers, is time. I have found that in a content heavy course (ELA 20AP and ELA 30) I have been able to save a very significant amount of time!! This is key. I am now able to do so much more with my classes that I would have never been able to even consider as options, prior to having technology within my classroom. This technology and equipment has liberated almost 2 full weeks than when I taught the SAME course without it.

Thanks again for another great year of PD. Without the time provided, I know that I would not have grown as much. I have been thinking about the future, and I want to make sure I am always current with new technological training and ideas. It creates a new motivation, urgency, and relevance for students. This is not something that is always easy to do these days in education, therefore that has been very important and meaningful to me.